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		October 3 2:30 p.m	
Before:			
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61 gave me, are you talking about the defendants collectively? MR. WOLL: Yes. 3 THE COURT: Thank you. MR. WOLL: I'm sorry, your Honor. Excluding loan 4 5 files. 6 THE COURT: So Ms. Chung, is it helpful to think about 7 the post-closing period for a reduced number of custodians, 8 searches during the five-year period for a limited number of 9 custodians of each institution? 10 MS. CHUNG: Your Honor, we did propose that along the 11 way. We would like to argue this, your Honor, with your 12 permission. I want to address particularly two things that 13 your Honor just heard. One, these are really the most 14 important documents in the case. It was later in the time 15 period, especially after the mortgage crisis hit, that people 16 began talking about -- and saw public and privately that the 17 performance was failing -- that people began writing e-mails 18 about what the problems in origination process had been. So I 19 think it's exactly understating the importance of this category 20 of documents to say, well, it's limited to these subsets so 21 this is really not a big deal, you have enough documents. So I 22 want to address the relevant particularly, but also what your 23 Honor had proposed, which is, doesn't it seem logical that some 24 subset would do. And I embrace that, your Honor. The letter 25 that they attach as Exhibit B to their letter to your Honor was SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

62 a proposal that we made in July saying, here's a proposal from us, since we've been talking about time frames, we don't seem to be making much progress, let's consider a post-closing world and a pre-closing world. And in the three months since then, your Honor, what's happened is, FHFA has 111 custodians, and our post-closing world is 66 custodians. We are now reviewing 2.8 million documents just in the post-closing period. And why? Because I can't stand in front of your Honor and say that it's not relevant. It's relevant. You've heard them make the arguments about GSEs came to these realizations. We need to know what they know. Well, we agree with that. So we're searching seriously in this post-closing period. Their numbers, when Mr. Woll says, well, we have subsets, seven of the defendants have nominated one or zero custodians in the time period. So whatever searches they're doing, they're reaching -- and their custodian numbers overall are much lower than ours, with the exception of JP Morgan and UBS -- I want to be careful to make some distinctions. They have significant numbers of custodians. But we're talking about almost all defendants have less than 50 custodians to begin with. And the range of post-closing custodians they're searching is from 0 to

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So, your Honor, when we proposed that we could think about, let's think about this, let's split the world, and then we had multiple meet-and-confers about what that world would SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

look like, what we found is, we're getting dribs and drabs on specific topics, exactly the ones Mr. Woll mentioned. So repurchases, some, not all defendants have agreed to nominate repurchase custodians. This is critical information, because as the banks got repurchased and evaluated them -- so these are loans that are being put back because somebody realizes there is something wrong with them -- when they write e-mails about those repurchases or they're applying standards about whether the guidelines meet them and what they are going to agree that's a properly repurchased loan, that is a whole -- that's everything on what they believe the guidelines mean. And so, yes, we're looking for that information.

And we're getting from some defendants, we'll give you one or two people on that. We don't have a good way to get behind what the nominations are. But we've also had defendants tell us, we don't have anybody who did any of these things, we don't have anybody who did monitoring of the performance, not just the public monitoring but the reaction to the public monitoring -- gee, do you see what that bond is doing, that's something that we never expected would happen, what do we think is going on. And we know from the media reports and allegations in the complaint that what's going on there is, you will see e-mail traffic of people saying, well, we knew that they were doing things they shouldn't be doing.

But I want to be clear, it's not just about knowledge SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

of falsity. All of this information goes to falsity. Departures from the underwriting guidelines are the heart of the case. And the search terms that we're talking about are things like the name of the underwriter, plus "abandon," plus "departure," plus "guidelines." So if you're not running that search any time past 2007, which is what half of the defendants are doing, then it's giving FHFA a null set. OK. In that period, the meaning of a repurchase -- repurchase didn't start going seriously until 2009. So saying that you're going to do your searches up to 2007 or 2008 is offering FHFA exactly zero. It's a false offer.

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So, your Honor, what we have done is, in this long process, I think -- and this is why I started with, I agree that some of the defendants are -- they're not all perfectly situated, but I think also there's just not a meeting of the minds on this idea that -- we're not talking about one or two people. You have to seriously go and look at who worked on repurchases. Not a single defendant has offered anything on this category that Mr. Wilson can understand, which is the retrospective reviews.

Another thing that happened after the mortgage crisis hit is that all these banks, the GSEs, everybody, took a step back and many of their risk committees, the very highest echelons of these banks and entities said, why did this go wrong, where did we abandon our risk policies, and anybody who SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

was in these litigations knows that the parties on all sides have these reports. These may not be ordinary custodians. This is not going to be the trader. This is going to be some special theater or the highest people who were looking at risk in the institution. And so it takes some diligence to figure out who these people are. And what we found in our meet-and-confers was that diligence was not being exercised. When we are told there's nobody in the post-closing period that is relevant, that is very, very difficult for us to accept even if it's also hard for to us attack.

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And so, your Honor, I think what we ultimately defaulted to, because we just found that we were not making headway on this, is, OK -- no one is saying, by the way, during these meet-and-confers, nobody said this was not relevant. I think we all understand it's relevant. What we're hearing is, it's burdensome, OK. So as I explained, FHFA has taken on the burden. Our view is, only one or two defendants gave us figures on burden. Those figures are AA. I mean, when somebody tells me, I got 2 million hits, well, you know, we got 2 million hits, but that means there are relevant things. It may take a while to go through it, but it's there. So our option was, you know what, if this is where we are, run the terms, run the terms on everybody. If certain people are completely irrelevant, you won't have any hits on them. So that shouldn't be the issue. And this is the way that we're SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

 $$66\,$ going to find what is some very, very meaty information that is highly relevant to the case.

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Given that we proposed this idea of the pre-closing and post-closing world, I think, your Honor, certainly one thing that we had a lot of problems with, in addition -- it sort of layers onto this problem -- is, we've made many requests. FHFA two months ago supplied a list of defendants of all 111 custodians, what their title is, what their department is, what their role is. And you can imagine that many of these meet-and-confers in order to test the adequacy of the custodian list and to test the adequacy of the custodian list for the post-closing period, we're seeking information about what these people did. We asked the defendants for reciprocal information. And in many cases we didn't get it. I had a demonstrative, which unfortunately I can't show your Honor, but what we depict is, we sent Credit Suisse, for example -- we were on a meet-and-confer and they said, you know, well, what information do you want, so what information don't you have. We actually made a chart with 30 rows or so with all the custodians, the name -- we filled in what we had. And we left question marks in the boxes we didn't have. And we asked for a limited description of the role so we would see what these people are doing. And what we got back was a partial amount of that list in which the last column had been deleted, the description of what the person does.

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OK. That in a nutshell is kind of the problem that we've been having in probing the adequacy of the post-closing period. I want to be clear, the number that we have just don't add up. There is not a way that you don't have a single person in the organization, just one person. But if we were to go to one system where we are denominating people, then I think at a minimum what FHFA would need is more information to tell what the list is because we have applied that backup route and it also has not really worked.

I'm kind of reluctant to hand around a demonstrative because they came in during the period and defendants haven't had a chance to see them. But I think that describes kind of where we've been.

I would like to just answer -- the negotiating history obviously is relevant. The defense has raised it. And as I say, I raised the idea that we originally proposed pre- and post-closing world. We did raise with the defendants, I just want to answer this, certainly in the meet-and-confers that I was involved in, we raised with the defendants that we were producing, because of this law enforcement negotiation for lack of progress, that they just run all the custodian terms for everybody. And that is indeed, for example, in the instance where we got numbers back on what the number of hits would be, that is what the defendant did to try to demonstrate this, and this is going to return a lot of documents, maybe not a SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

shocking proposition to begin with. But it's not true that this was first raised with defendants in the letter.

Your Honor, I just would say a few things about the data so that your Honor has the full picture. We have a few defendants who have offered a few repurchase custodians, which is not adequate. We have some defendants who have offered nobody. We have no defendant who has offered any custodian on these retrospective reviews. And on performance or monitoring of performance, I would say, I think maybe half of defendants have offered between zero and eight people on this topic.

THE COURT: Mr. Woll.

MR. WOLL: Can I just be heard on a couple of things, your Honor. First of all, on the repurchase documents, I just wanted to mention this, FHFA has taken the position that all of its internal repurchase documents are privileged, so they're not going to be producing, as I understand it, any internal repurchase documents. And just as a point of clarification, repurchase claims involve lots of things. They don't just involve the purchase and underwriting guidelines. And so there could be repurchase documents that we come up with that have nothing do with underwriting guidelines.

In terms of relevance and the argument that it's not just the state of mind but it's compliance with guidelines, this information after the fact, well, the whole point of this sample that the plaintiff has proposed where this SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

reunderwriting exercise has been discussed is, that's going to be a lot of focus on loans to determine whether they in fact complied with underwriting guidelines or not. So, again, to do a huge e-mail review to see if somebody said something three years after fact about compliance with the date of the transaction I don't think is a particularly efficient way to go.

And then finally, just with respect to details about the custodians, as far as I know, and I could stand to be corrected, I don't think we got detailed information about the FHFA custodians in terms of which ones they've decided have had post-securitization responsibilities or how they made that decision.

THE COURT: Thank you.

So to the extent that -- most of these cases are non-fraud cases. There are only six of the 16, I think, that have fraud claims in them. And even the fraud claims, of course, are enormously impacted by the Section 11 claims, the straight misrepresentation claims. And statements that the defendants make which the plaintiffs would argue would be admissions that there was a noncompliance with underwriting guidelines or underwriting practices would take some of the disputes potentially off the table here. So I can certainly understand the importance of having a meaty production for the post-closing period.

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And with respect to these four categories of topics outlined in the plaintiff's letters and which Mr. Woll addressed, it seems to me each of them is an appropriate ground for post-closing discovery. It remains unclear to me, though, whether we need all custodians searched. But I think the burden would be on the defendants to make a showing that a more limited search would be sufficiently productive. It seems to me if executives, people with management responsibilities, people who are members of special committees and make reports for the institution with fact finding about what happened, in a way that could be binding on the defendants at trial or certainly highly relevant to a jury's analysis of the defenses that are being put forward at trial, they have to be searched. So if a defendant doesn't want all the custodians searched for the five-year period, then I think they have a responsibility to create a custodian list that identifies the custodians by title and role and with a sufficiently detailed description of their jobs and responsibilities to make a showing that a search of their e-mails for the post-closing period won't be likely to produce or isn't sufficiently likely to produce productive materials.

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It seems to me in the post-closing period what we're talking about would be -- and, Ms. Chung, I'm happy to hear from you on this -- but I think what we're talking about in the post-closing period is people with a high-enough responsibility SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

71 within the organization that their knowledge and observations about these historical practices bear some weight, and that some of the more junior-level people, that would have highly 3 4 relevant information during the periods of securitizations 5 themselves, their stray comments or thoughts might be of less 6 interest or importance in the post-closing period. One could 7 argue the other way. But I think that defendants need to get 8 to the plaintiff by the close of business tomorrow a list of 9 their custodians by title and role and indicating which 10 custodians they do not believe there should a search for for 11 the post-closing period, so that there can be an adequate 12 meet-and-confer on that topic on Wednesday between the parties 13 and so Thursday afternoon I can address any areas of 14 disagreement. 15 With respect to the bubble --16 MS. CHUNG: Your Honor, I didn't really address that. 17 I don't know -- I could do it briefly. 18 THE COURT: Ms. Chung. 19 MS. CHUNG: It is a version of the same argument 20 because -- on this one I want to be clear, there's a clear 21 split in defendants. I want to give credit; a lot of 22 defendants are not using this bubble approach. For FHFA it was 23 never an issue because on our side, and one of the reasons --24 it was funny when you said I didn't see it in the letter. On 25 our side we don't have a bubble because we just ran all our SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

72 custodians pre-period for all deals and all originator terms. Most of our employees worked on the same deal so it didn't make a difference. So our eye was not really on the idea that you 4 would ever try to separate the originator terms by deal. And 5 so when defendants started doing that, and there's been some the movement in it but now I think it's clear there's sort of 7 two camps. One camp is searching it all the way through. And 8 another camp has said, no, we're always going to associate an 9 the individual originator with the deal that they were welded 10 to. And the problem with that, your Honor, again, is the 11 arbitrary cutoff of relevance. It may be, you know, there are, 12 for example, there is an example in the -- I think it's Merrill 13 Lynch, where during the time period the deals are being done --14 that's information that comes about in different RBS case 15 that's public because there has been motion practice about it, 16 so, oh, gee, this originator, looks a little weird, let's start 17 doing some quality control on this. OK. If that kind of thing 18 happens and they're looking for quality control in the 19 origination of the loans, that's not going to happen in a 20 four-month window. So that's the logic, that it's just -- I 21 think it's hard to say that it's burdensome if the plaintiffs 22 are doing it and then there's this kind of arbitrary three 23 months before, one month after that we don't think bears any 24 relation to the relevance of the documents. 25 THE COURT: Ms. Chung, with respect to that division SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

73 between pre-closing and post-closing, where is that line drawn, in your view? MS. CHUNG: In terms of what, your Honor? 3 4 THE COURT: An individual defendant. 5 MS. CHUNG: Well, I quess the distinction we drew, 6 your Honor, is, we're not insisting -- we put the bubbles 7 around what we've been calling the deal terms. So there have 8 been two sets of searches. One is geared off of the actual 9 securitization names and the CUSIPs and things like that. That 10 to us is debatable. Frankly, we could have asked this as well, 11 I think, but we didn't. We said, OK, if you want to run the 12 deal terms in bubbles, that makes some sense because you expect 13 there to be higher volume about the deal when it's being 14 arranged. But to us the originator information is not like 15 that. There can be e-mail chatter about the originators and 16 their practices and perhaps the falsity of their 17 representations in the offering materials to the extent they're 18 talking about departures from the guidelines at any point in 19 time. And so I guess what I'm saying is, much of the argument 20 for us is the same. 21 THE COURT: But then you made the proposal of a pre-22 and post-closing search and a distinction between the two. For 23 any individual defendant, what is the demarcation for it? 24 MS. CHUNG: Your Honor, it depended on what duties 25 they had. So we were saying -- it's not unlike what your Honor SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

74 was just saying. If you can give us enough information that they only would have had e-mail traffic in an earlier period, so this might be people who are doing the arranging of the deal, so all they're doing is picking the loans that are going to go into the deal, that could have some logic to it, there's no need to go up to the date of the complaint from post-closing. But that was exactly the kind of information that we found it difficult to get. I think the key thing was what your Honor identified, which is -- because I think most of the defendants have already staked out the position that if they're on the custodian list and they haven't already been designated by them as a post-closing custodian, that those people do not have duties that would implicate those fewer areas. I think what we're -- so we're very interested in the first part of what your Honor ordered, which is, can you identify people in these four buckets who -- have you identified those people, if they are the higher-level people that's fine -- who did have responsibility for these things. I think that's really what we've been missing.

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THE COURT: Do you agree that with respect to that five-year period -- I'll call it the post-closing period -- that what is most important to the plaintiff are things that could be thought of as admissions, that they are basically things that were said to, heard by, or articulated by people in SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

managerial or executive positions with respect the organization?

MS. CHUNG: Yes. Your Honor, I think we could make a broader argument. It depends. For example, on repurchases, many of these entities had, when repurchases started coming in in big volumes, they would form committees where there would be standards set. There would even be things like, you know, I've seen a policy that said to employees, if you can find ways to turn down these repurchases, you'll get incentive-based pay.

So there can be a range of things that e-mail traffic and -- you know, it can be at a committee level. It can be at the executives' level. I understand what your Honor is saying about having the importance to bind the company. But I think in many ways -- I mean, this is an argument defendants have made -- that, you know, you're an employee and you're there and that's still relevant information if you're talking about the business and the aspects of the business that are relevant to the case.

But I hasten to say, I think that a big issue has been for us so far just identifying any people that relate to those four buckets. That's what the big hurdle has been so far.

THE COURT: Mr. Woll.

MR. WOLL: Yes. Your Honor, I just wanted to add that you instructed defendants to provide information about their custodians and ones that are not appropriate for post-SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.